FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 OCTOBER 1984

Lebanon

Syrian, Israeli Comment — Syria has not entered any direct or indirect negotiations with Israel and it has never agreed to enter such negotiations, Damascus radio contended in a commentary on Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks about Syria's willingness to enter indirect negotiations. Stressing that this "imperialist-Zionist psychological war" against Syria will not succeed in dragging it into "unilateral negotiations, side contacts, or any other form of bargaining," the radio affirmed that arrangements for an Israeli withdrawal are the responsibility of the Lebanese Government, not Syria. "He who seeks security arrangements with Lebanon must knock on the Lebanese door and search for the suitable framework," the radio added.

Nevertheless, Israeli Defense Minister Rabin affirmed in a Jerusalem television interview that there is a "reasonable chance" of reaching an "indirect understanding" with the Syrians, whose initial reaction to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's visit was "not disappointing." Asserting that the problem with Syria may be easier than with Prime Minister Rashid Karami's government, Rabin opined that the Syrians want Israel to withdraw because the IDF presence in Lebanon restricts their ability to threaten Jordan.

Security Situation — Nine "terrorists" were killed and three IDF soldiers were wounded in two more incidents in the south, Jerusalem radio reported. The "terrorists" have stepped up their attempts to infiltrate southward across the Al-Awwali River, the radio disclosed. Further north, the Lebanese Army clashed with Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia in the Suq al-Gharb area, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, which blamed the PSP for initiating the violence.

Reforms — Commenting on his recent talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Minister of State Nabih Birri said the Syrian leader had indicated a desire for the Lebanese Government to speed up the implementation of reforms, Beirut radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio said that the Iraqi Air Force and II Army Corps continued to pound Iranian positions in the Sayf Sa'd area, Iraq's term for the battle zone referred to by Iran as "Meymak." The Iranians lost another 354 men killed and 1 helicopter shot down, the communique claimed. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA reported artillery exchanges in the Meymak area.

Iraq-Turkey

Iraq and Turkey have agreed that forces from either side may pursue "subversive groups" into the other's territory provided the pursuit is "vital" and lasts no more than 3 days, the Iraqi information minister told INA.

Syria-Libya

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Libya where he discussed the regional situation and bilateral relations with Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Damascus radio reported.

Egypt

Military Cooperation With UK — Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah discussed military cooperation with Great Britain during talks with visiting British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine, MENA reported.

Mubarak Interview — In an *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* interview reported by MENA, President Mubarak urged the Palestinians to "act now" to formulate their own "practical initiative" to revive the Palestinian issue and solve the problem. Asked about relations with Syria, Mubarak said no contacts have taken place since President al-Asad's illness, but he added that Egypt and Syria will "inevitably meet again."

PLO

Beginning a visit to Jordan, PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with King Husayn will deal with holding the PNC session in Amman, according to Amman radio. Meanwhile, Riyadh radio cited reports that the PNC will hold its extraordinary session in Amman "in the next few days." However, PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum asserted that he has "no inkling" of the PNC convocation or the time set for it by Yasir 'Arafat, Kuwait's *AL-WATAN* revealed.

In a related development, a PFLP statement cited by Damascus radio supported the restoration of "comprehensive" PLO unity. As for the DFLP stance, a statement after a recent DFLP meeting stressed commitment to the Aden-Algiers agreement for restoring unity and securing democratic reform of the PLO institutions, "especially its leadership," Aden Voice of Palestine radio revealed.

Pakistan

An official Pakistani spokesman denied a PTI report which claimed that there had been clashes between Pakistani and Indian troops on the Kashmir border, according to Karachi radio. As for internal affairs, a bomb blast in a Peshawar theater caused 2 deaths and 21 injuries, AFP reported, while another 3 persons were injured in a blast in Islamabad.

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Defense Minister Speaks at Youth Club Opening
LD242227 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The Club of Young Friends of the Air Force was opened this afternoon in youth town at a grand ceremony to mark the 3d solidarity day of Afghanistan's youth by Lieutenant General Abdol Qader, candidate-member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of national defense.

Prior to the opening of the club, the minister of defense spoke to a large group of secretaries, members, and cadres of the civil and military DYOA and Pioneers about the role of youth in the freedom struggles of our people:

[Begin recording] Dear young people: Remember, the PDPA will leave a formidable (?heritage) to you who will be taking the historic responsibility of the leadership of the party, revolution, and society [word indistinct] and who will be society's leading force.

You should begin your preparation today to fulfill your formidable historic responsibility; prepare devoutly for the defense of the revolution not just with words, but physically, spiritually, and scientifically as well.

You have witnessed the sacrifices and heroism of those youth who defended the gains of the revolution and the objectives of the party and the DYOA with their lives. May their souls be at peace.

This is the lesson for the young generation: Learn the lesson of patriotism, devotion, and self-sacrifice.

Those blood-drenched martyrs wanted [word indistinct] for you and me. For you whose valuable heritage will be the responsibility for the homeland, their example should be your guide. The present young generation should accept that, in future, heavy responsibility will rest on them.

Fortunately, the DYOA, under the leadership of the PDPA, has taken very important and positive steps toward physical and spiritual training of the present generation and future generations of the homeland.

Dear young people, your victory is the wish of every one of us; every patriotic person in the society desires the prosperity of your homeland and people. Forge ahead to the full victory of our people, our revolution, and the PDPA.

Long live the PDPA!

Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Qandahar City Begins Television Service
LD212214 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] On the eve of the PDPA's 20th anniversary and in accordance with the joint development plans of the State Committee for Radio-Television and Cinematography and the Ministry of Communications, Qandahar City's television service was officially opened by 'Abdol Majid Sarboland, member of the PDPA Central Committee and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

Qandahar City's television service, which has modern technical equipment, has begun to operate on channel 12, SECAM [color television standard] system; at the moment it broadcasts for 2 hours each day.

Speaking to a BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent, a spokesman for the State Committee for Radio-Television and Cinematography reported that in order to record and broadcast television programs through the central studio, the Qandahar television center utilizes the Shamshad unit and the (Statsionar-t 5) [earth satellite] provided by the friendly Soviet Union.

At present the television center records fresh programs every day between 0600-0700 from the studios of central television; it broadcasts them after 1800.

The Qandahar television center, utilizing the small library which it has at present, continues its broadcasts for up to 2 hours daily.

The spokesman said television centers are be set up in the provincial capitals of Herat and Nangarhar Provinces and the major district of Khost in Paktia Province.

The spokesman added that the purpose of television broadcasts in the provinces is to enable our compatriots throughout the country to be well-informed about internal and external events. In addition, efforts are made to broadcast some of central television's programs in the country's provinces.

Qandahar City's television programs contain political, social, informational, and artistic material. Efforts will be made to broadcast material of interest to all the people.

Ershad on Development Goals of Government

BK241155 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said the main objective of his government is to bring about rapid changes in the conditions of the common man and associate them in nation-building work. He was addressing a civic reception given by the citizens of Maimansingh town at the local pauro [municipal] park yesterday. The president said his government has implemented various revolutionary measures to bring the vast majority of people within the main current of development activities. He said when he assumed the responsibility of running the administration, the country was passing through many experiments, like parliamentary democracy, one-party rule, presidential form of democracy, and also tested (?multiphased) revolution, like green revolution, and second revolution. He said nothing tangible could be attained out of these experiments for improving the lot of the common man.

Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, Information Minister Shamsul Haq, Labor Minister Shah Moazzan Hossain, Education Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhry, Port, Shipping, and Inland Water Transport Minister Reazuddin Ahmed, and the zonal martial law administrator Zone A, Major General K.M. Abdul Wahed, were present on the occasion.

Later, President Ershad laid the foundation stone of district Muktijodha Sangsad Bhavan [Freedom Fighters Association House] near Thanaghat. He urged freedom fighters to join the struggle for attaining eocnomic independence in the same spirit of liberation war. The president also addressed the chairman and members of the Union Parishads [councils] of the district and described them as the front line warriors for execution of his dreams of improving the lot of the helpless rural people, the peasants, and the workers. He said as the elected representatives of the people, the chairmen and members of the union parishads should keep themselves above controversy and engage themselves in the service of the people.

President Receives UK's Princess Anne

BK241139 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Visiting Princess Anne of Britain met President Ershad and spent some time with him.

Earlier in the morning, Princess Anne placed a floral wreath at the National Martyrs Memorial in Savar as a mark of respect toward the martyrs of the war of independence. She also stood in silence for few minutes in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for their motherland. Princess Anne was also shown the different parts of the memorial.

Princess Anne, who is the president of the Save the Children Fund, an international welfare organization, was brought to the memorial via motorcade. A large number of people watiting at different parts of the route expressed their sincere welcome to her.

Hosts Banquet for Visitor

BK250308 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The President and Begum Roshan Ershad [president's wife] gave a dinner in honor of Princess Anne of Britain at the Banga Bhavan in Dhaka yesterday evening. The guests were introduced to the princess and she talked to them (?as family). Present at the dinner were Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud and Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, members of the Cabinet, and senior civil and military officials. The dinner was followed by a cultural show.

Princess Anne goes to Khulna today to visit the projects run by the Save the Children Fund. The princess will also visit some SCF projects in Jamalpur district on Saturday.

Rasgotra Begins Talks With Australia's Henderson
BK231418 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Australia began their periodic official-level talks in New Delhi yesterday. They discussed bilateral matters and developments in the South Asian and Southeast Asian regions. The Australian foreign secretary, Mr Peter Henderson, told Mr Rasgotra that his country is now giving a new and sharp focus to its relations with India. He said the Australian Government realizes that the comparatively low level of importance which had been given to contact with India was not to its advantage. The talks will be resumed today.

Mr Henderson also called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha.

Rao: No Postponement of Lok Sabha Elections
BK241255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said that the modalities for the proposed talks with the outlawed Mizo National Front leader are being worked out and will be announced in a next few days. He told newsmen in Pune that Mr Laldenga has already been offered safe conduct.

In reply to a question, Mr Narasimha Rao said that the government has no intention of postponing the Lok Sabha elections. Revision of the electoral roll has been undertaken as per the directives of the Election Commission. With regard to Punjab, the minister said that the state is normal for holding the polls.

3 Crewmen Killed in Bombay Tanker Fire
BK241636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] In Bombay, three crew members of an oil tanker were killed, three injured, and six others missing when it caught fire following an explosion at (Bucha) Island. The tanker *Lala Lajpat Rai* of the shipping corporation was carrying 21,000 tons of crude oil. According to official reports the fire has been brought under control. Earlier, the tanker was towed from (Bucha) Island to midsea to save the port installations from being engulfed in fire.

Punjab Committees To Screen State Employees
BK240920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] In Punjab, screening committees have been set up at three administrative levels to improve the state administration. These committees will weed out those from service found lacking in competency, honesty, and integrity. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that this has been done in pursuance of Subramanium committee report. The committee was set up in the recent past to suggest measures for improvement in the administration. It was headed by Mr R.V. Subramanium, the present senior adviser to the state government.

Series of Bomb Blasts in North Pakistan Reported
BK250405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] There are reports of a series of bomb blasts in northern Pakistan. In the worst incident, a bomb exploded inside a cinema hall in Peshawar close to the Afghan border, killing 4 people and injuring 25 others. In another incident, 10 people were injured at Parachinar, about (?160) kilometers west of Peshawar.

Pakistan Plans To Buy Frigates From FRG, UK
BK241409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Pakistan is planning to buy new frigates from West Germany and sophisticated missiles and radars from Britain for its navy. This has been reported by *JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY*.

The Pakistan Navy has invited a West German warship yard to reopen talks on the possible purchase of the frigates. The move comes immediately after signing of a letter of intent with a British firm to build two frigates in Britain and the third in Karachi.

Pakistan is also reported to be seeking Britain's (?Sea Hawk) missiles and new radar.

Zia Comments on Situation on Indian Border

BK241046 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said Pakistan is committed to peace both as an Islamic nation and as a member of the United Nations. Speaking at a function in connection with the UN day in Islamabad this afternoon , he said Islam is a religion of peace and similarly the UN Charter is very clear on this point. The president regretted and said in the 20th century — considered to be the most modern — the law of jungle still prevails and might is still considered to be right in the conduct of affairs between nations.

The president said the situation in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war and other conflicts in Latin America and Africa were indicative of the fact that the world continues to be threatened by a major conflagration and the very survival of mankind is in grave danger.

Turning to the regional situation, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq referred to the inhumane act of intervention in a neighboring country of Pakistan which has caused 3 million Afghan refugees to seek shelter in Pakistan. He said recently there were a number of provocations and embarrassment for Pakistan. He, however, declared that Pakistan would not be provoked nor embarrassed because it was striving for peace. Similarly, he said on the eastern borders of Pakistan people were talking about war clouds and interference in the internal affairs and the so-called accumulation of arms and equipment. There were also continuous allegations about Pakistan acquiring nuclear know-how for making an atomic device.

General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan, beset with problems like providing educational and medical facilities and making the lives of its people worthwhile, could not think of making a nuclear bomb. Pakistan, he said, will continue to march behind the United Nations to achieve its objectives of peace and prosperity for the mankind.

Further Remarks

BK251034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The president has given a categorical assurance for a fair, impartial, and peaceful elections. Addressing the Punjab council in Lahore today, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that every effort would be made to maintain peaceful conditions during the election. He said the election would be held on Islamic lines and the decision to hold it either on party or nonparty basis would be announced at the most appropriate time.

About the current situation on the eastern and western borders of the country, the president said it was certainly a matter of concern but of no danger. He said the people of Pakistan were capable of defending their independence and [would] foil any aggressive designs. He appealed to the people to be vigilant against the activities of the rumormongers.

About the Afghanistan problem, he said that Pakistan was trying to find its political solution through the UN special envoy. Such a solution is essential so that the Afghan refugees could go back to their homeland with honor and dignity and the Afghan people get an opportunity to have the government of their own choice.

The president appreciated the role of local bodies in the developmental activities. These, he added, were a liaison between the people and the government.

After the president's address, the current session of the Punjab council adjourned sine die.

U.S. Envoy Murphy Meets With Leaders

Yaqub Khan, Niaz Naik

BK241049 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state, Mr Richard Murphy, called on the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on matters of bilateral interests and the situation in the region.

Earlier, Mr Richard Murphy held talks with senior foreign officials led by the foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik. The talks covered a wide range of subjects, including bilateral relations and the situation in the South Asian region. Mr Richard Murphy also called on the defense secretary in Rawalpindi this morning.

Ziaul Haq

BK241527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asia, Mr Richard Murphy, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. He exchanged views with the president on bilateral, regional, and international matters.

Spokesman Denies Clashes at Kashmir Border

BK241725 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1710 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text) An official spokesman has said in Islamabad that while it has all along been Pakistan's earnest endeavor to generate an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding with India, it is unfortunate that the Indian media should be circulating totally fictitious reports to vitiate the atmosphere. Quoting PTI, REUTER reported from New Delhi yesterday that Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged heavy fire on their borders in Kashmir after Pakistani troops started digging trenches in no-man's land. The report also referred to clashes on the 18th of this month in Punch district and exchange of small arms fire along a 50 km stretch of border between the two countries. PTI also quoted the sources as saying that Pakistani troops opened fire when the Indians objected to the digging of trenches in no-man's land. The sources which, however, have not been identified said trench

digging was continuing and Pakistan's reinforcements were seen as pouring in at several points.

Refuting these allegations made by PTI, the spokesman said no trenches had been dug or were being dug by Pakistani troops in the so-called no-man's land. He also categorically stated that no clash had taken place between the two sides and no troop reinforcements by Pakistan were being made.

Press Note on Blast in Peshawar Cinema

BK250921 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] An official press note issued from Peshawar says that at least two persons were killed and several others injured in a bomb blast in a local cinema hall in Peshawar yesterday evening. The injured were immediately rushed to the hospital where they are receiving preliminary medical treatment. The district magistrate and the police officials arrived on the spot immediately after the bomb blast, and the injured were rushed to the hospital under their supervision. Police are investigating the incident.

AFP on Bombings

NC242046 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 24 (AFP) — Two persons died and 21 others were injured when a bomb planted in a cinema in Peshawar exploded today, police said.

Another three persons were hospitalized in Islamabad last night when a bomb exploded inside the Moslem saint Barri Imam's shrine near here.

Paper Comments on Politician's Release

GF240456 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 19 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Mr Jatoi's Release"]

[Excerpts] A former Sind chief minister, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has been released. His imprisonment was terminated in accordance with government policy, under which Khwaja Khairuddin and others such as Air Marshal Asghar Khan, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, and Mr Sherpao had been released earlier. It is hoped that the reported six other interned politicians will be released soon.

Mr Jatoi is an important leader of the former Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. After the departure of the party's leadership abroad, he was considered the most effective and prominent leader of the PPP. While being known as a moderate, his adoption of a harder line before the MRD campaign and after his return from the United States was considered significant in most circles as it was contrary to his nature. The reason for the change was traced to his visit to the United States. However, his later statements issued during his internment and addressed to the people on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday and independence day reveal his typical moderate approach.

Whatever Mr Jatoi has said after his release regarding the 1973 constitution is not unexpected. His close associate in Sind provincial politics and the author of the confederation's pamphlet, Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, is still under arrest. He has been transferred from the jail to his house and he wants to go to London. It is hoped that he will receive permission to do so.

The equilibrium of democratic politics or its fundamental or cumulative trend is affected by the activities and opinions of the political leaders of various schools of thought. This process will begin with the utterances and activities of politicians before the upcoming elections. It can even be said that it has already begun with the release of Air Marshal Asghar Khan.

MASHRIQ Editorial on U.S. Aid Assurances

GF201430 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 13 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Assurance of American Aid"]

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Deane Hinton, while explaining U.S. policy toward South Asian countries, said that the United States is determined to maintain the territorial integrity of Pakistan. If this country was a target for foreign aggression, then the United States would not remain neutral.

Nevertheless, he discounted the possibility of an attack on Pakistan from its eastern border on the grounds that the countries concerned knew that in such a case the United States would effectively intervene on the side of Pakistan. He added that even if India attacked Pakistan, the United States would go to the aid of Pakistan. In any case he hoped that India would not commit any aggression against Pakistan. He also expressed the U.S. hope that relations between India and Pakistan would improve.

Expressing his views on the new framework of relations between the United States and Pakistan, he said that the United States respects the nonaligned status of Pakistan and that there was no question of U.S. bases on Pakistani territory. He added that in the past there have been occasions when the national interests of Pakistan and the United States did not correspond, and sometimes they differed on issues, but changes in the region which have been brought about by the illegal Marxist regime set up in Afghanistan through aggression have forced both countries to reassess their existing relations.

Mr Deane Hinton admitted that a superpower cannot be turned out of Afghanistan by force but it does not mean that one should become despondent and do nothing. The superpower also is extremely worried about what is happening in Afghanistan. It is losing support from the world of Islam and the nonaligned countries. He said that the pressure of public opinion is very powerful. Public opnion in the whole world has become organized and this struggle against the superpower will not go in vain.

This explanation by the U.S. ambassador is highly appreciated because it says that the United States is determined to help Pakistan in case of foreign aggression. Moreover, the United States respects the nonaligned status of Pakistan. For this reason the United States considers the matter of having military bases in Pakistan out of question. There have been many ups and downs in the relations between Pakistan and the United States.

Pakistan was a defense ally of the United States but then they said that they would come to the aid of Pakistan only if the aggression was by the communists. Now that Pakistan is totally nonaligned, the United States has announced its complete support for maintaining Pakistan's territorial integrity against any aggression.

This change has come undoubtedly in view of the current regional situation. The presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan has imposed a threat to the stability of the entire region but this threat, in addition to being a danger for the region, is also a danger for U.S. interests in the region. Therefore, as far as the security of the region is concerned, the interests of the United States and Pakistan have become one and the same. The political and geographical changes in the region have compelled the two countries to set up a new infrastucture for their relations.

It is this change in relations which in spite of the United States getting out of the Pakistan defense pact, is making it give great importance to Pakistan's independence and territorial integrity. In view of the situation in the region Pakistan could have become a defense ally of the United States and could have obtained armes free of cost. But it did not give up its nonaligned status despite the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. However, it signed an arms purchase agreement with the United States against a loan which it obtained from the United States at a rate of interest which is current in the world.

Undoubtedly Pakistan has done the right thing by insisting that its stand on the question of Afghanistan is a principled stand and that it is neither a supporter of the United States nor hostile towards the Soviet Union. Pakistan is only sticking to its principle that no superpower be given the right to deprive even the smallest country of its sovereignty and nonaligned status.

The boldness and steadfastness which Pakistan has shown toward its principled stand has made the free world realise that no harm should come to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is on this basis that world opinion supports Pakistan's stand. On the other hand, a great blow has been given to the prestige of the superpower which has intervened militarily in Afghanistan.

We fully agree with the analysis of the U.S. ambassador that this superpower cannot be thrown out of Afghanistan by force. But we cannot stand by and continue to tolerate the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Moreover, while this superpower cannot be removed from Afghanistan by force, this superpower cannot crush the spirit of independence from the minds of the Afghan people. Pakistan has thoroughly analyzed the Afghanistan situation and has come to the conclusion that the question of Afghanistan cannot be solved by force and that a political solution will have to be found. Being compelled by these circumstances, it seems that Soviet Union too is also coming around to this view and it is on this account that it is supporting the indirect talks through the auspices of the United Nations.

We beleive that the pressure of world public opinion and that of the internal situation in Afghanistan will force the Soviet Union to find a peaceful political solution.

SRI LANKA

UK's Baroness Young Holds Talks With Hameed

BK251049 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The visiting minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, Baroness Young, held talks with Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed in Kandy yesterday. The two ministers discussed matters of mutual interest and global issues.

Baroness Young assured Mr Hameed that the United Kingdom will continue to provide assistance for Sri Lanka's development projects. She toured the the Mahaweli project areas, including the Victoria scheme, which was an outright gift from the British Government.

Security Forces Kill 3 Tamil Terrorists

BK241105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Security forces have raided what has been identified as the northern headquarters of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO]. The raid by personnel attached to the joint security forces command in Vavuniya was the direct result of the arrest of seven Tamil Nadu trained hardcore terrorists at Uppuveli. They had disclosed details of how they plotted to attack a police convoy due to move in for by-election duty at Minneriya.

The security forces acted promptly by raiding a building at Arali in Vaddukkoddai. During the raid, three terrorists were killed on the spot and three arrested.

When the security forces personnel were about to leave after collecting an arsenal of weapons a person came into the compound and had tried to escape on noticing the personnel. After an exchange of fire he was rounded up and identified as the leader of the TELO military wing in the north. This operation yielded a large stock of arms and ammunition as well as food supply.

Among the weapons recovered were 2 Indian AK-47 rifles, hand grenades, cartridges, magazines, 10 foreign made grenades and 34 rounds of 9-mm ammunition.

Security Forces Capture Separatist Headquarters

NC250949 Paris AFP in English 0913 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP) — Security forces captured the headquarters of a major militant separatist group in the north yesterday and arrested three key people, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said today. This is the second separatist headquarters to be hit by the security forces in two days, he said, describing it as a major breakthrough in the fight against the separatists. A section of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority are battling to set up an independent Tamil state in the north and east of the country because of alleged discrimination at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

The minister refused to give any details of the Army action or to name the militant organisation involved. Meanwhile six suspected militant separatists are now being detained in connection with a spate of bomb blasts in Colombo on Monday which killed three people and injured at least 10, the minister said.

Singapore Gives Notice of Ending Air Accord

BK241115 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Singapore has given notice to Sri Lanka to terminate the air services agreement between the two countries abrogating the only existing valid air services agreement reached in 1972. According to Air Lanka sources, authorities in Singapore had now come out into the open that the only existing agreement between the two countries was that reached in 1972. Air Lanka on more than one occasion had enphasized that the 1979 agreement was never ratified by both governments and was, therefore, invalid.

Air Lanka is prepared to offer Singapore Airlines all points requested except Copenhagen for their current winter schedule in order not to disrupt Singapore Airlines flights and arrive at a compromise. The restrictions currently applying to the Middle East will also hold good for the coming season. Air Lanka is prepared to offer these concessions to Singapore Airlines provided that the Singaporians grant Air Lanka two flights to Singapore via Kuala Lumpur and two flights to Singapore and beyond to Tokyo.

Khomeyni Decree Names New Joint Staff Chief
LD251142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] In a decree issued by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Infantry Staff Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi has been appointed as chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the decree by the imam of the Islamic nation is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

His Excellency Infantry Staff Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi, may God Almighty support him!

For the reported worthiness you have displayed on the battlefields against the foes of Islam and Iran and for your adherence to the sacred religion of Islam, I hereby appoint Your Excellency Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I beseech Almighty God to grant you success in serving dear Islam and Iran and the order of the Islamic Republic and express appreciation for the sincere hard work and consistent efforts by Brigadier-General Zahirnezhad.

3rd Aban, 1363 [25 October 1984]

Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

President Meets With Zahirnezhad, Sohrabi
LD251236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] This morning Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council, and Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi, the new chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. In this meeting, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council made necessary instructions.

President on Meymak Operation, UN Moves
LD251212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] This morning in a meeting with a number of clergymen from the Islamic Republic Party, Tehran Branch, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i described the recent victories of the fighters of Islam on the Meymak front and the successes achieved by the Islamic Republic of Iran in their plan for the expulsion of Israel from the UN.

In this meeting, describing the recent victorious operations of the fighters of Islam on the Meymak front and its various dimensions from a political and military point of view, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The recent operations of the fighters of Islam in the strategic Meymak operational sector were powerful and effective operations which put our fighters in a dominant position over the extensive area of this region. With the occupation of that region the security of our borders is fully guaranteed.

Emphasizing the fact that the recent operations also have a political dimension, the President added: With great effort, making use of the delay between the operations of our forces, Saddam Husayn had tried to make his allies, supporters, and the world powers who are influential in this region believe that the period of the advances and victories of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the repeated defeats of the Iraqi regime had come to an end. This attitude could be clearly seen in the dealings and political maneuvers of the countries of the region with the political representatives of our country. However, despite the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran attached no importance to their political moves, nevertheless with complete maturity, skill, and control the Islamic Republic of Iran was looking for an opportunity.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: Of course, as the result of the delay in our operations, there was a growing feeling that the Islamic Republic of Iran had no ability to mount an offensive. However, these operations had their effects and exploded like a bomb, bewildering and frightening those who had these feelings.

Mr Khamene'i added: For those who expected that Iran was preparing herself for launching an attack in another region, the operations around Meymak were unexpected. Fortunately, these operations were carried out with complete success and a large number of the aggressive forces were captured by the fighters of Islam.

In another part of his speech, referring to the calculated efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 2 years for the expulsion of Israel from the UN and the considerable results of these moves, the President said: This year's move by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the expulsion of Israel from the General Assembly of the UN was more effective [than earlier attempts]. This trend of opposition to the Zionist Israeli regime should continue. Israel should be humiliated in any way possible, and effective political blows should be delivered against it. The fact that even in the war imposed by Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran's demand for the trial and punishment of Saddam Husayn is made so that it may inflict great, irreparable damage upon the aggressor, and so that no one would ever be encouraged to engage in aggression.

Referring to the fact that this year America had been really frightened of the moves of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the expulsion of Israel from the UN, the president said: Frightened of these moves, the Zionist leaders of Israel turned to America for help.

The American President tried to assuage their fears by stating that if Israel is expelled from the UN, America would also leave and would stop her contributions to that organization. Although America and her satellites placed many obstacles on the path of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this issue, this year's move by Iran was twice as successful as last year's. Iran's

successes in this field demonstrated that this blow was more effective and more powerful.

Emphasizing that we are not only fighting against Israel, but that we possess the winning card of the battle against Israel with regard to the reactionary regimes in the region, and that we are advancing with full strength, [as heard] the president added: Our political rivals who are not prepared to see the Islamic Republic of Iran remain in power even for one day and who do not like to see the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international organizations as decisive, or to see that the Palestinians have pinned their hopes upon Iran, worry about this winning card which we possess.

The reactionary countries of the region, including Iraq, who on the surface pretend to be confronting Israel, were frightened when the Islamic Republic of Iran got involved in this issue.

When they see that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the focal point of all the moves, has once again carried aloft the stricken banner with a fresh impetus, they get worried. It is natural that this move of the Islamic Republic of Iran should cause anguish among the compromisers of the region.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,890
LD241657 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants, achieving all predetermined objectives in their already concluded offensive in the Meymak theatre of the western fronts, are exercising full control and defending their new positions.

Announcing the above Wednesday evening, the 1,890th Joint Staff Command Communique added that artillery and mortar fire exchanges continued between the two sides in the said operational region over Tuesday. Iraqi forces' rallying points, as well as their artillery and positions were subjected to the effective fire of the Islamic defenders in the area.

The artillery duel in the northwestern fronts led to the killing or wounding of more than 20 Iraqi troops by the Iranian forces who also destroyed one enemy machine gun and five weaponry emplacements.

Elsewhere, in the southern fronts, heavier fire was traded near the Sharhani area. A total of 11 enemy bunkers were demolished west of the Arvand River, while a number of Iraqi patrols spotted west of the Jufayr area were fired upon by the Islamic combatants who forced the enemy to abandon the region with some losses.

The communique further stated that the Iraqi heavy weapons fire damaged 12 residential units in Abadan's inhabited areas as well as causing fires in two sectors of the city during Tuesday.

Foreign Journalists Visit 'Liberated' Heights
LD241456 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Meymak, Oct 24, IRNA — Foreign journalists visited the Meymak heights, the region recently liberated in victorious operations by the Islamic combatants of Iran.

More than thirty journalists from France, U.S.A., China, Yugoslavia, Canada, Japan, Britain and Denmark prepared some films, pictures and reports in their visit to the said region.

Foreign journalists, who have come to Iran on the invitation of the War Information Headquarters, were first briefed about the Meymak operational region, and the liberated strategic heights by the officials of joint hqs. of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and the Army in the west of the country. Then they visited the heights overlooking Talkh Ab River, Kaserkaf, Gorgani, Fazil, Tang-e Bijar and Tang-e Bina which had been previously liberated.

Tehran Commentary on Military Operations
GF250600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Unattributed commentary: "The Political Aspect of Military Operations"]

[Excerpts] With the full settlement of the capable warriors of Islam in the important and strategic heights of the Meymak operational theater, the 'Ashura military operations has been completed after attaining all its preset goals. The victory by the warriors of Islam was so quick and decisive that the criminal ruling regime in Baghdad, in an unprecedented act, was forced to confirm the achievements of the warriors of Islam using the expression "achieving two footholds."

The strategic importance of the liberated areas in the Meymak operation theater can be clearly gauged from the suicidal efforts and repeated and heavy counteroffensives by the aggressor Iraqi Army. In one instance it officially announced that the Zionist Saddam Husayn led one of the counterattacks.

With the defeat of the heavy counteroffensives by the aggressor Iraqi Army, the military capabilities of the Ba'thist mercenaries in this part of the war front have been noticeably weakened; the warriors of Islam, having gained complete control over the strategic heights in the region, have crossed the Talkh Ab River and liberated parts of the Helaleh plain. Thus enemy concentrations and logistic supply roads such as Badrah-Mandali, Zurbatiyah-Dhu Shaykh, Kaserkaf and heights overlooking it as well as the Helaleh plain have come under the crushing fire of the capable warriors of Islam.

In part of his Friday sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: the only important issue for us in delaying an offensive is that it is not just a military operation. In the opinion of our president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council it has a political aspect. That is to say, we want to start an attack to achieve political results and solve the issue of Iraq by dealing a fundamental blow against the Ba'th Party, not Iraq. Our goal

is to deal blows not just against the Ba'th army, nor is our goal capturing weapons; other things have priority [sentence as heard].

Such statements by the acting Friday prayer leader and the speaker of the Majlis clearly show why there are no longer large offensives similar to those carried out during past operations to liberate Khorramshahr or the Fatholmobin [operation] and the Jerusalem operation. It is important to note the poisonous propaganda by the mass media of world oppression at this point which has connected the delay in a large offensive by the army of Islam with their own imagination. It is clear that the defensive battle of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the unpopular and aggressive regime of Iraq will continue without any heed to propaganda uproars, and on the basis of the values and philosophy of Islamic society, until the achievement of goals in the interests of the Muslim people of Iran and Iraq.

Naturally if the recent crushing blows do not lead to the realization of these goals, the warriors of Islam, with complete readiness, will continue their defensive battle and will start operations wherever and whenever they see fit.

Reinforcements Continue To Bolster Troops at Front

GF241804 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit more than 200 self-sacrificing personnel of the Guards, mobilized personnel, re-enlisting volunteers, and those returning from leave left for the battlefronts of right over wrong. Another group of mobilized personnel from (?Zaderan) left for the front amidst a noisy sendoff from the people of (?Zaderan.)

Another group of protectors of the Islamic Revolution left for the battlefront from Zarrinshahr with a warm sendoff from the hezbollahi nation to fight against the mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thists.

Judicial Council Spokesman on Prison Leadership

LD241325 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA — The spokesman of the High Judicial Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtadaie, here today introduced Hojjat ol-Eslam Javad Elahi as the new head of the supervising Council of Prisons.

Introducing Hojjat ol-Eslam Elahi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i called on prison officials to take measures to meet needs of the inmates. He further stressed the need to look into problems of prisons and said that prisons must become centers of rehabilitation for offenders.

In another part of his speech, he said that the friendly attitude of the prison officials would be more constructive in correcting the offenders and [word indistinct]. He further added that despite limited possibilities, the situation in prisons has improved immensely.

Central Bank Governor on Law, Foreign Exchange

LD242033 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] Today, in an interview with our correspondent, Mr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran described the results of the implementation of the new banking law and the government's policy concerning foreign exchange. The interview follows:

[Begin recording] [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] The government has announced that controlling inflation, increasing production, and creating productive jobs are the three main economic policies for next year. In view of the fact that the fiscal policies of the Central Bank have a great impact upon inflation, please let us know what has been done to control inflation.

[Nurbakhsh] One of the most important of the measures which have been adopted, could of course be the new banking systems. We have blocked some of the allocations which could lead to higher inflation. In the framework of the new banking law, these allocations are made in step with goods, namely with production [as heard]. Therefore, this could be an effective factor in the future system of the country. According to the figures, during the past 6 months the retail prices indicate inflation of about 13.5 percent, which is lower than the figure for the previous year. Also wholesale price inflation has been about 7.1 percent; this is also lower. The overall trend in prices shows that the rate of the inflation has come down. We hope that this trend will continue in the future.

[Reporter] Recently there has been some talk about providing new facilities for the private sector, whether in the case of foreign exchange or in other issues. Please let us know what practical steps have been taken in this direction.

[Nurbakhsh] Of course, the general policy of the country regarding the issue of foreign exchange will be based upon the priorities and the general needs of the country. The government will give priority to various national sectors, such as defense, essential commodities, and development projects — as far as the granting of foreign exchange is concerned. Then, what is left will be devoted to other sectors including commerce, services etc. To decide what portion of the remainder is to be allocated to the private sector and other sectors will be left to the policies of the Ministry of Commerce and the government concerning foreign trade etc. In any case, our priorities in allocating foreign currency are to provide essential requirements first, and then deal with other areas.

[Reporter] Which branches will be given priority in the private sector?

[Nurbakhsh] I believe that the government will certainly give priority to the productive fields. [end recording]

Tehran Commentary on Oil Price Reductions

LD221042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2330 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Unattributed commentary: "OPEC is Faced With a New Conspiracy"]

[Excerpts] Oil in today's world is like blood in arteries and veins of a man. Therefore, for many years experts and researchers have been trying to find another substance to replace oil in arteries of the industrial world. But so far, they have not succeeded in inventing or discovering such a substance.

These days, there are some contradictory reports about the oil market. Following a price reduction by Norway and Britain, Nigeria had to reduce its oil prices. The fact that this price reduction coincided with the start of winter and the eve of the OPEC meeting makes one realize that this is some kind of planned exercise, irrespective of competition between Britain and Norway. The statesmen of Britain and Norway, puppets of global blasphemy headed by the criminal United States, have certainly been under the instructions of their master planning to implement another conspiracy against oil producers and gain some political, if not financial, profit from the confused market. Amidst all this, only alertness of OPEC leaders can foil this conspiracy and direct its harm back to the plotters.

Any oil price reduction by Norway, which produces only 600,000 barrels per day, should not disturb the international market. Even the daily 2.4-million barrel production of Britain cannot have any influence on the international market. After all, what percentage of the international oil market is in the hands of these two countries? On the other hand, at the moment, Britain is experiencing rapid devaluation of its currency as the result of the strike by coal miners. Any reduction of the oil prices will worsen this situation and no one with a sound mind can accept that Britain would take such a step under the present circumstances. If OPEC were to give the slightest hint about increasing its oil production, the economy of Britain would be disrupted. Therefore, one becomes certain that there are some secrets behind the scene.

The policy of the Islamic Republic has never been reducing prices and increasing oil production, and this policy will remain the same. The authorities of the Islamic Republic are striving to make sure that this gift of God will remain for future generations, while bringing the maximum possible profit to the country at present. If other members of OPEC were to follow the same policy with the same belief, then, just as before, OPEC would be able to take control of the international oil market. But at present, the market fluctuations depend on propaganda of the arrogant mouthpieces and their false atmosphere. That is why the present market is so confused. The world-devourers have created a false market in order to take over OPEC's role as controller of the market and to impose their own wishes on OPEC. Such a conspiracy cannot be implemented without the help of some OPEC members. Therefore, this issue whould be kept in mind for the next session of OPEC. Those who might oppose this move in OPEC whould be singled out. If one day the unity of OPEC were to be threatened, then the oppressed nations would recognize the guilty members.

A brief study of the problem would make us realize that any price reduction will harm the producers, disrupt their balance of payments, and damage the critical economy of the world. This is particularly true in the case of Britian with its acute problems, for which Margaret Thatcher's government has failed to find an answer. Why is the Nigerian Government not realizing that it is a victim of a conspiracy which has reduced its daily income by $2.4 million as the result of the price reductions? How long will Britain put up with the reduction of its foreign exchange earnings? Any reduction of income would also be tragic to other producers. Why is this happening at all? These measures are taken in order to put pressure on OPEC, as the largest oil producer in the world. No doubt such conspiracies will not be implemented without the help of some OPEC members. OPEC is right now facing another acid test. If it can preserve its unity, it will be able to stand against this conspiracy and come out of it as the victor.

Indonesian Commercial Delegation Begins Visit

LD241436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] The head of the national organization for the export development of Indonesia arrived in Tehran yesterday, at the head of a commercial delegation. They were welcomed by officials from the Foreign Ministry, Commerce Ministry and the Chamber of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yesterday afternoon the Indonesian commercial delegation began the first round of their talks on issues of interest to both countries with Iran's director-general of commercial affairs in the Commerce Ministry. During these talks, the possibilities of expanding commercial relations between the two countries were discussed.

The talks between this delegation and the officials of the centers for preparation and distribution of goods and organizations affiliated with the Industries Ministry will continue during the next few days. Also, during the next few days, a high-ranking Indonesian commercial delegation, headed by the commerce minister, will arrive in Tehran.

Indonesia is among the nonaligned countries that possess facilities to export goods such as tea, rubber, textiles, clothing, lumber and wood to Iran and can purchase non-petroleum goods from Iran.

GDR Foreign Trade Official Meets Export Officials

LD211828 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21 IRNA — A Foreign Trade Ministry official of the German Democratic Republic, Hans Dieter Ettel, met here Sunday with senior officials from the Center for Expansion of Iranian Exports, to discuss trade.

In the meeting the purchase of non-oil items including carpets, concentrated copper, cloth, canned food and fruits from Iran were discussed.

Dieter Ettel is currently heading a GDR trade delegation to the Islamic Republic.

Clandestine Radio on Zahirnezhad's Appointment
GF241802 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Khomeyni's appointment of Brigadier General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad to the Supreme Defense Council has attracted public attention. Political observers and news sources at home and abroad note the important point that to date the post was only Hashemi-Rafsanjani's and also note that the new appointment shows Khomeyni's dissatisfaction with the decisions of the regime's Supreme Defense Council with respect to the war.

According to these experts, Zahirnezhad's appointment shows that the ruler of Jamaran intends to put more responsibility in the hands of the Iranian Armed Forces. With this trick Khomeyni is effectively putting the responsibility for the war and its calamitous repercussions on the shoulders of the Iranian Armed Forces. However, informed sources stress that members of the Armed Forces are completely aware of this maneuver and trick by Khomeyni and will never fall into the trap prepared for them by the ruler of Jamaran.

Assassination Attempt Against Tabataba'i Fails
GF241800 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] According to a report by our Tehran correspondent, Sadeq Tabataba'i was the target of an assassination attempt in Tehran's Takht-e Tavus Avenue yesterday. He escaped with a shoulder wound. According to this report a number of unknown individuals opened fire on his private car while he was going through Takht-e Tavus Avenue. The assailants fled the scene after their attempt.